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ATTN. JOYCE CHEEKS

ACLU Of SC Foundation
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06/20/2007

Re: Civil Rights Violations,

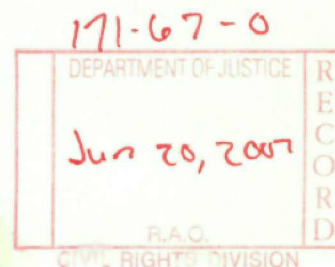
Dear ACLU Officials,

I am seeking someone who could assist me with the following matter. On or about (05/09/2007) I was approached by local law enforcement officers at my residence, I was told they had a warrant for my arrest and they were taking me to the Magistrate Judge. I never got to see the warrant.

However unlike my brother [REDACTED], I was allowed to drive my own personal vehicle to the Magistrates Office. It was never explained to me what the warrant was for, or what I was being arrested for. Upon arriving the Court Clerk told me to pay \$100.00 or I would be jailed, so I paid the \$100.00 she then said ("you can leave now, we got your money"). I never went before the Judge.

To this very DAY!, I don't know why I had to pay the Court \$100.00. Since then my brother and I ([REDACTED]) have both received letters from, Marion County Environmental Services, explaining that we have to appear before the Magistrate Judge on (06/20/2007). I understand now, this whole deal is about the County's Solid Waste Service.

For quite a number of years now, the County has tried to force the local residents to sign up for a service (Trash Pickup) that the County provides for free. Most of the residents affected by this are the low income minority residents, mostly Black. I can see where this extortion and unlawful arrest are heading already, tomorrow I will go before the Magistrate, the Judge will demand that I sign the Countys' (Non Termination Agreement) and pay for services rendered, that are provided for free, or go to jail.



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I had a stroke a year ago,my brother is on disability,and Marion County has gone completely insane,locking up 80 plus year old residents for not paying for an invalid debt. The County claims we're in violation of it's local ordinance,yet all the ordinance requires is that all residents obtain a commercial Trash Container,which the County was not allowing the residents to do own their own,but taking the liberty and trespassing to place one of their own(County Containers)so the County could then charge the residents \$25.00 a month for the use of the Container.

All Marion County residents are allowed,and can privately purchase their own commercial Trash Containers,to avoid the Countys \$25.00 monthly fee. Law enforcement officers are acting as the County's debt collectors,telling residents if they don't pay their trash bill,they will be picked up and taken to jail. If I go to jail tomorrow,it will be because I didn,t give in to the County's demands to sign their agreement and pay them money I don't owe them.

The County Officials and The County Attorney KNOW! what they are doing is highly illegal,yet they continue to break the law. They figure I guess,they've done this so long,and no one in town dare challenge them, not even the local attorney's,or the local media. So we remain under seige. My brothers () have been jailed!as of this morning for refusing to sign a(NON TERMINATION AGREEMENT) and pay \$287.00,on a debt the County refused to validate.

We could really use some help,please give me a call !

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]